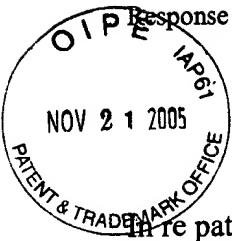


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Response to Office Action Application/Control Number: 09/911,090



In re patent application of

Philip Romanik, et al.

Application No: 09/911,090

Examiner: Avi Gold

Filing Date: 23 July 2001

Art Unit: 2157

Title: IMAGE TRANSFER AND ARCHIVAL SYSTEM

Correspondence address:

Customer Number: 000052697

Philip Romanik

116 Parker Avenue East

West Haven, CT 06516

(203) 933-5174

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Response to Second Office Action

This is a response to your office action which rejected claims from our patent application, "Image Transfer and Archival System", filed on July 23, 2001. I will address your points one by one, but I believe all the rejected claims should be accepted. The Tanaka patent (U.S. Patent 6,564,256) you rely on heavily, covers different subject matter. I have amended the claims by adding 5 new claims (one new independent claim and 4 new dependent claims). I am still within the limit for the total number of claims and total number of independent claims so no additional payment is included. No existing claims have been modified.

General Comments

Most of your rejections are based upon the prior art of Tanaka (U.S. patent No. 6,564,256). Tanaka describes a client/server arrangement of terminals (i.e. web browsers) and servers to transmit DICOM image data from a database to the terminals. Tanaka uses multiple servers to overcome the problem of long response times when the terminal makes a request. The relay servers described by Tanaka perform some image compression and format conversion in order to meet the requirements of the terminals (i.e. web browsers). Tanaka describes that the image conversions are solely for the purpose of delivering an image of a compatible type for the terminal, and to make sure the image does not exceed some specified maximum size.

Our invention deals with the problem of transmitting volatile images from an image producing device to a server device. Without some kind of queue and image reduction mechanism, these images will be permanently discarded if there is any delay in transmitting the images from the client device to server